Setting up of more community Radio Station by AIR

1708. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of community Radio Stations set-up, by the AIR (Prasar Bharati)/Government as on 31 st October, 2006, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have decided recently to set up more Radio Stations in the country; and

(c) if so, the number of stations, proposed to be set up during the current financial year 2006-07, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) 5 Community Radio Stations have been set up by AIR (2 in Meghalaya, 2 in Nagaland and 1 in Mizoram).

(b) and (c) AIR has no further proposal for community radio stations. However, the Government has liberalized the policy for grant of permission for setting up community radio stations to 'Non-Profit' organizations *viz.* Civil Society and Voluntary organizations, State Agricultural Universities, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Registered Societies and Autonomous bodies and Public Trusts registered under Societies Act or any other such act relevant for the purpose in addition to the educational institutions. The guidelines are available on the Ministry's website, *www.mib.nic.in.*

Huge expenditure by AIR and Doordarshan

1709. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Radio and Doordarshan incurs huge expenditure but their listenership/viewership are much less and completely disproportionate to their expenditure;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to decrease the expenditure on these organizations, make them economically self reliant and to increase their listernship/viewership;

(c) whether there is any proposal to have one powerful radio station of